

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, *Editor*
EMMETT KILPATRICK, *Co-Editor*



Published by the
State Department
of
Archives and History

Vol. 16

No. 3 & 4

FALL AND WINTER ISSUE

1954



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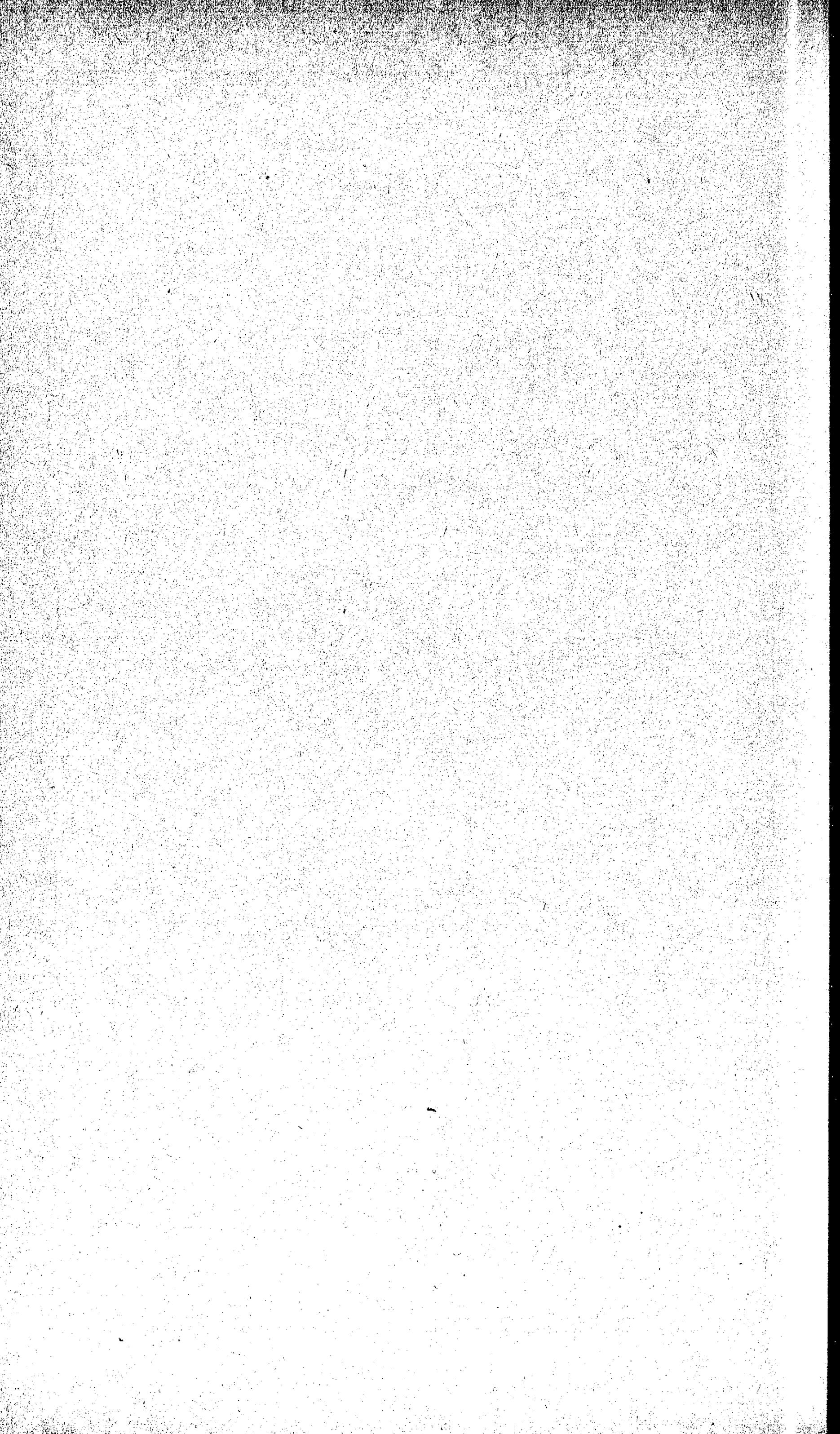
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Contents

Mobile, History Reader for the Fourth Grade

The Choctaw Trading House, 1803-1822, by Father Aloysius Plaisance



MOBILE



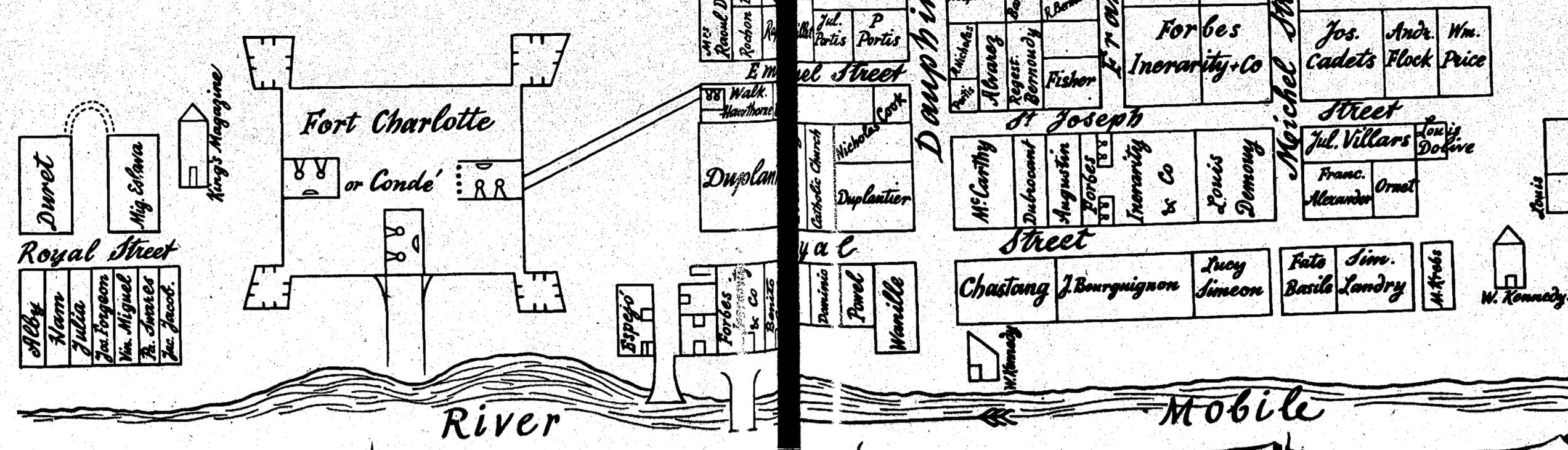
Courtesy, Mr. R. A. Alvarez

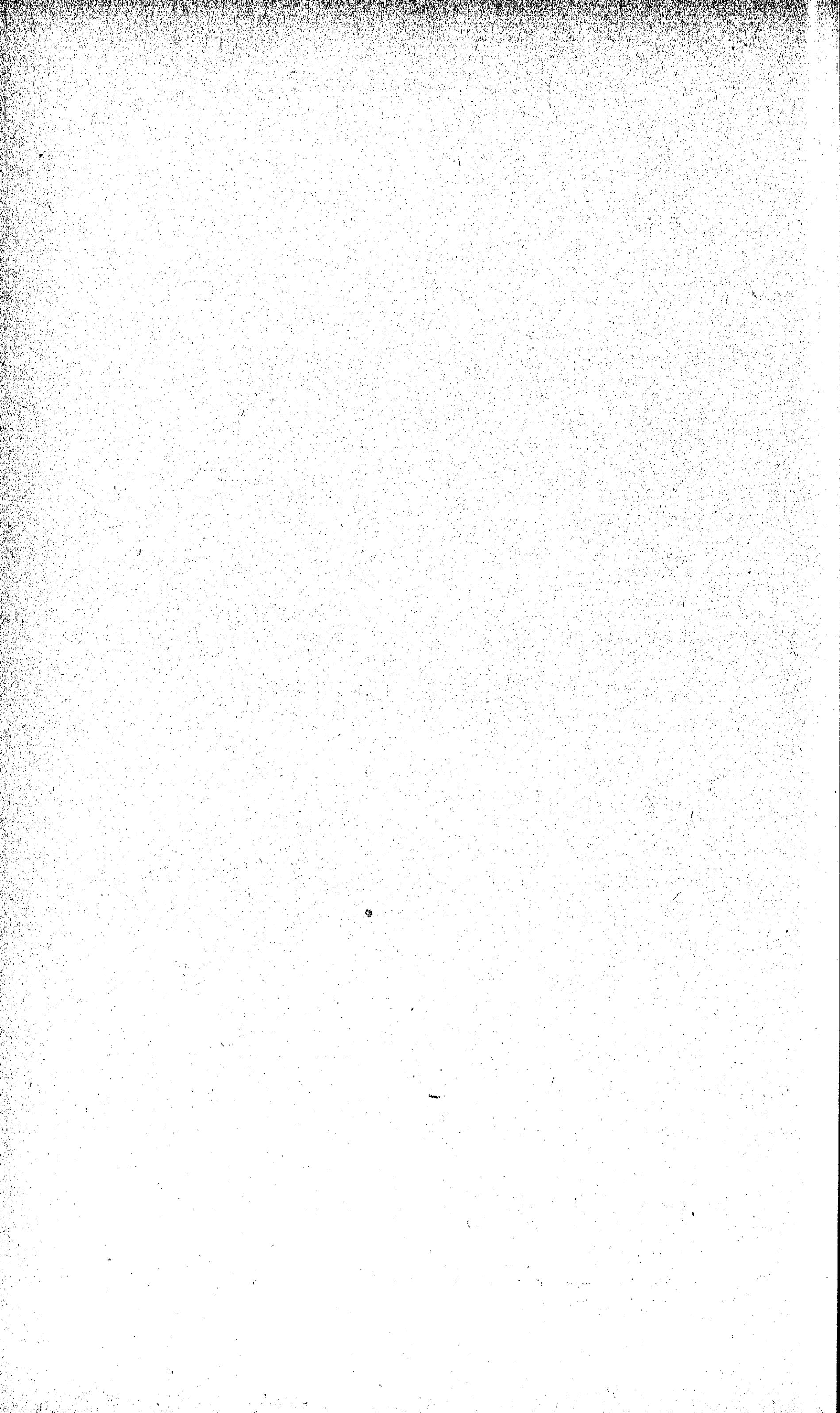
HOME PORT

This Waterman ship is coming up Mobile Channel to the State Docks.

Plan
of the City of
Mobile
From 1802 to 1813
Copy half reduced of
a Map preserved
By Mr Dan. Geary.

Springhill College. Jan. 20, 1867
to Cornette
[Signature]

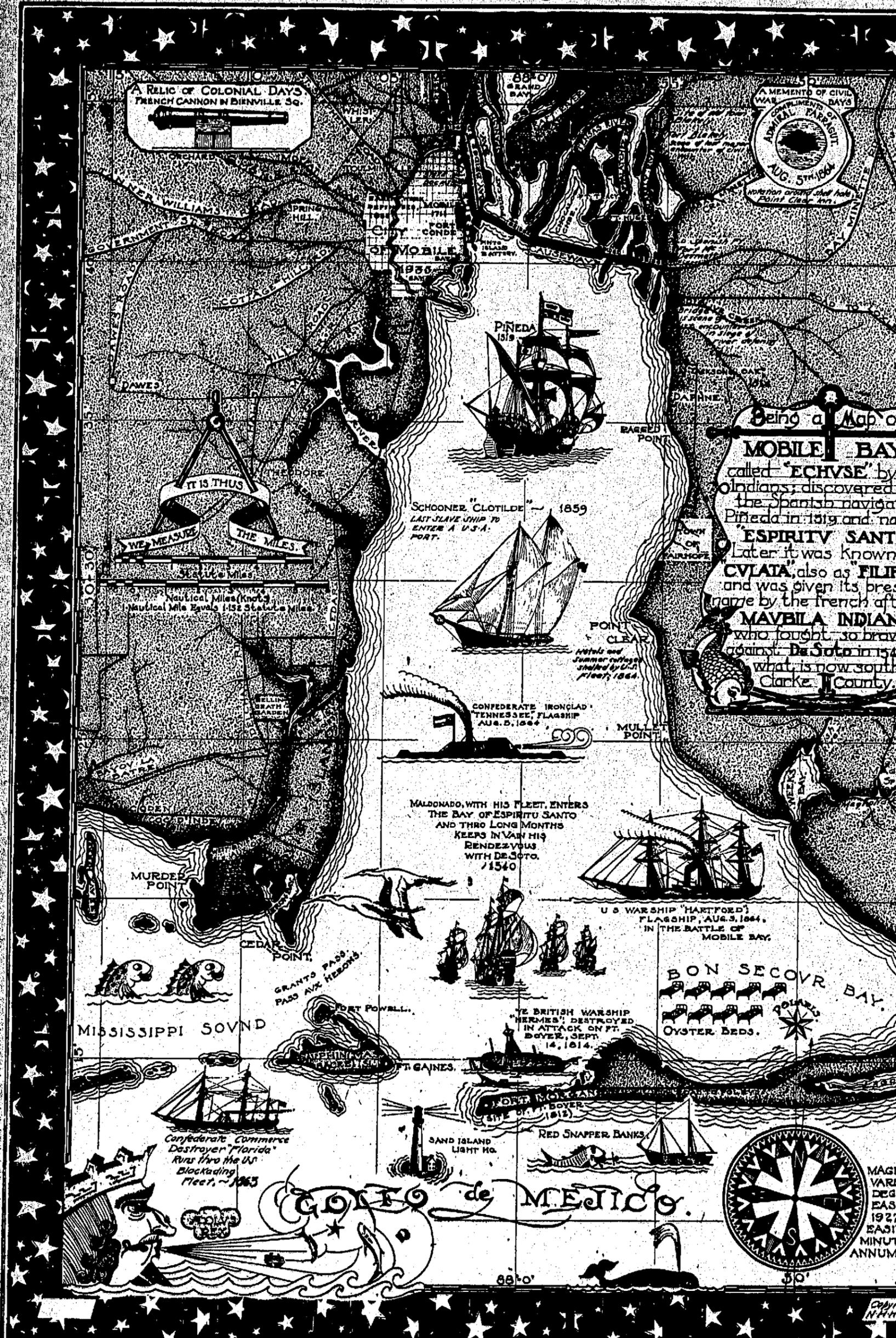




MOBILE

A History Reader for the
Fourth Grade

(Inset here as a part of Alabama Historical Quarterly, is the fourth reader issued for the Mobile public schools and as shown, copyrighted by the Board of School Commissioners. This is republished at the request of the Board at Mobile, in the hopes that the story of Mobile may be more thoroughly disseminated to all the people of Alabama. Mr. R. B. Chandler, Publisher of the Mobile Press Register, kindly furnished the cuts of the engravings and illustrations and to him the thanks of the Editors of the Quarterly are here expressed.)



A RELIC OF COLONIAL DAYS
FRENCH CANNON IN BIENVILLE SQ.

A MEMORIAL TO CIVIL WAR
ADMIRAL PARSONS
AUG. 5th 1864
Location around the hotel
Point Clear Inn

Being a Map of
MOBILE BAY
called "ECHVSE" by the
Indians; discovered by
the Spanish navigator
Pineda in 1519 and named
"ESPIRITU SANTO".
Later it was known as
"CULATA", also as "FILIPINA",
and was given its present
name by the French after the
"MAVILA INDIANS"
who fought so bravely
against De Soto in 1540 in
what is now South
Clarke County.

IT IS THUS
WE MEASURE
THE MILES.

SCHOONER "CLOTILDE" - 1859
LAST SLAVE SHIP TO
ENTER A U.S.A.
PORT.

CONFEDERATE IRONCLAD
"TENNESSEE", FLAGSHIP
AUG. 5, 1864

MALDONADO, WITH HIS FLEET, ENTERS
THE BAY OF ESPIRITU SANTO
AND THRO LONG MONTHS
KEEPS IN VAN HIS
RENDEZVOUS
WITH DE SOTO.
1540

U.S. WARSHIP "HARTFORD"
FLAGSHIP, AUG. 5, 1864,
IN THE BATTLE OF
MOBILE BAY.

THE BRITISH WARSHIP
"HERMES" DESTROYED
IN ATTACK ON PT.
BOYER, SEPT.
14, 1814.

Confederate Commerce
Destroyer "Florida"
Runs thro the US
Blockading
Fleet, ~ 1865

MAGNETIC
VARIATION 5-
DEGREES
EAST, IN
1927; INCR-
EASING 1-
MINUTE PER
ANNUM.

Copyright 1937
N.H. Holmes, Del.

MOBILE

A History Reader for the
Fourth Grade

MOBILE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MOBILE, ALABAMA

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Board of School Commissioners
Mobile, Alabama
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"Yea, I have a goodly heritage."

Ps. 16-6

*"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
who never to himself hath said:*

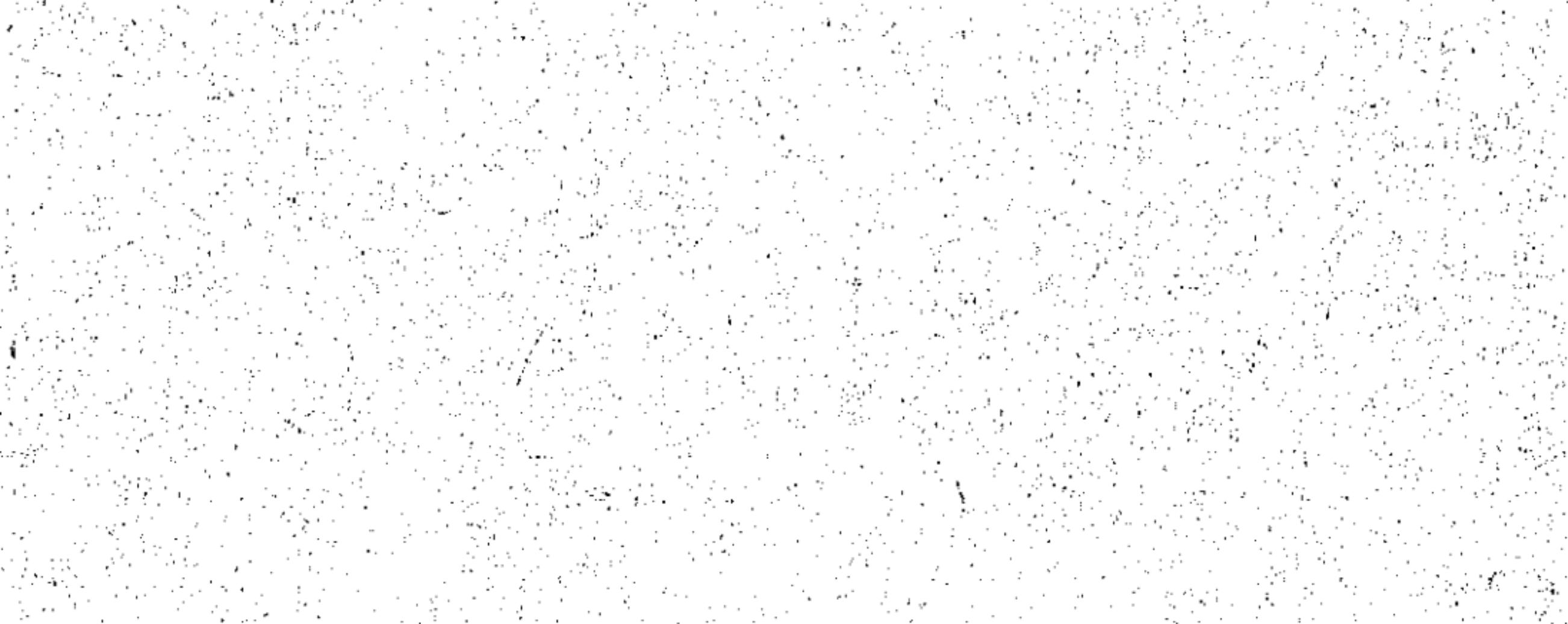
"This is my own, my native land!" "

Sir Walter Scott

DEDICATION

To the school girls and boys of Mobile

This is your book



Thank You

Without the help of many Mobilians this History Reader would not have been possible. They love their city and have proven their pride in our bright heritage by their splendid co-operation.

Mr. R. B. Chandler, President-Publisher of The Mobile Press Register, was first to advance the need of such a book, so that each child in the schools would have his own story of Mobile. And, generously, he offered to underwrite the expenses of such a book. He is responsible for most of the fine pictures which appear in this issue.

The late Dr. K. J. Clark, Superintendent, gave the History Reader his approval. A group of teachers from the Fourth Grades, where Mobile history is first taught, began the work. Its final phases were left to the undersigned continuing committee.

When the book was ready to go to press, the way was paved for its printing by action of the Mobile School Board: President Arthur Smith, Jr., Vice-President John S. Shaw, and Commissioners Alfred Delchamps, Dan T. McCall, Jr., and Kenneth Reed.

Many thanks are due to Dr. Cranford H. Burns, Superintendent, for his invaluable and sympathetic counsel during the preparation of the book. Also to:

Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History at Montgomery, and to Dr. Toulmin Gaines for critical review of the manuscript.

The Waterman Steamship Company, especially Mr. W. P. Moulton, Administrative Assistant.

The Alabama Power Company, particularly Mr. L. M. Smith of Birmingham, President.

The staff of The Mobile Press Register, Mr. George M. Cox, Executive Editor, Mrs. Dorothy Wilkins, Librarian and especially Mr. William W. Lavendar, Photographer, who made numerous pictures for the book.

Mr. Raymond A. Alvarez and Mr. John F. Glennon, of the Alabama State Docks.

Mrs. Sidney Phillips for authentic sketches of Old Fort Louis de la Mobile and Mobile's six flags; Mr. N. H. Holmes for frontispiece, pictorial map of Mobile Bay, and Surrender of Fort Charlotte; and Miss Lucia Chaudron, sketch of Spanish galleon.

The First National Bank, especially Mr. Albert E. Reynolds, for permission to reprint the Acker pen sketches from the bank's anniversary volume, "Highlights of 75 Years in Mobile."

The Mobile Public Library, particularly Mrs. Emma C. Harris and Mr. R. L. Bell.

Mrs. A. S. Mitchell, Mr. Blake McNeely, Mrs. J. E. Beck; and these others from our schools: Miss Lenore Jones, Miss Vivian Jelks, Mrs. Lillian Stein, Mr. R. L. Booker, Dr. C. L. Scarborough, Mr. Carl Watson, Mr. John Montgomery, Mr. Melvin Hetland, Mr. Jack Ingram, and Mrs. Mary Burroughs.

To all who helped, the History Reader committee wishes to express its grateful appreciation.

Laura E. Simmons

Helen Stanford

Olive Thomley

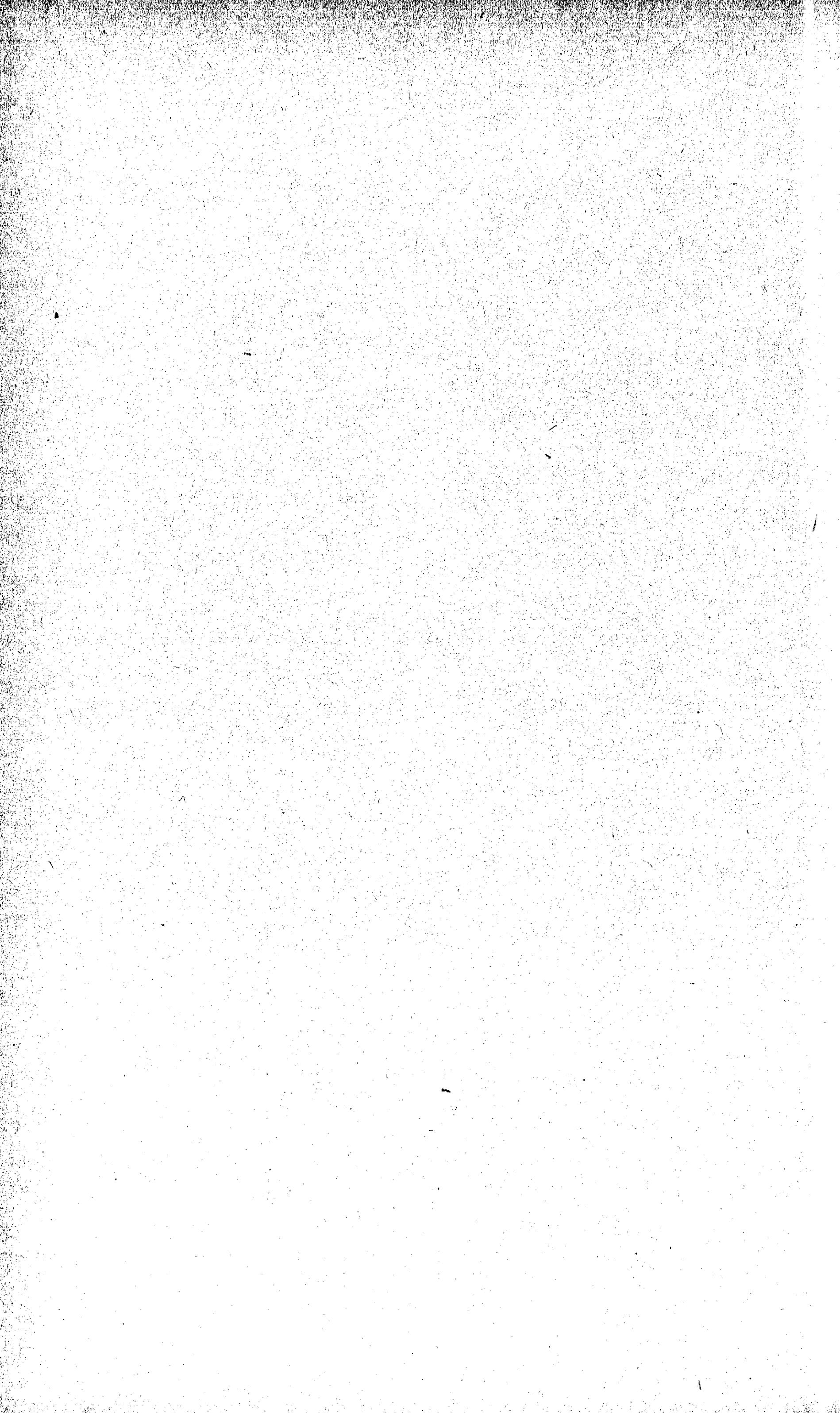
Mildred Wiggins

Cora Shipman, Secretary

Frances Durham, Editor

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Mound Builders and Indians

Have you ever wondered how Mobile began?

This book was written for you, young citizens of Mobile. It tells you how our city began and how it has grown.

Thousands of years ago, the people who lived here were the Mound Builders. We call them Mound Builders because they built mounds near their homes. We can see some of these mounds today. These people lived here at least 5,000 years ago, even before the Indians. That would be about 3,000 years before Christ was born.

The first people to live in a country are called aborigines. The Mound Builders were the first people who ever lived here, so far as we know. We do not even know their real name. We do know something about them from the things they left in their mounds.

You may see some of these mounds in Mobile County and elsewhere in Alabama. At one place, called Moundville, men have dug up and studied the tools and dishes and weapons that the Mound Builders made and used. These tools and weapons tell us something about how the Mound Builders lived.

The Mound Builders were probably wandering



An Indian mound on Dauphin Island built thousands of years ago. Tools, dishes and weapons of an earlier race have been found in such mounds.

Courtesy, Mr. Blake McNeely

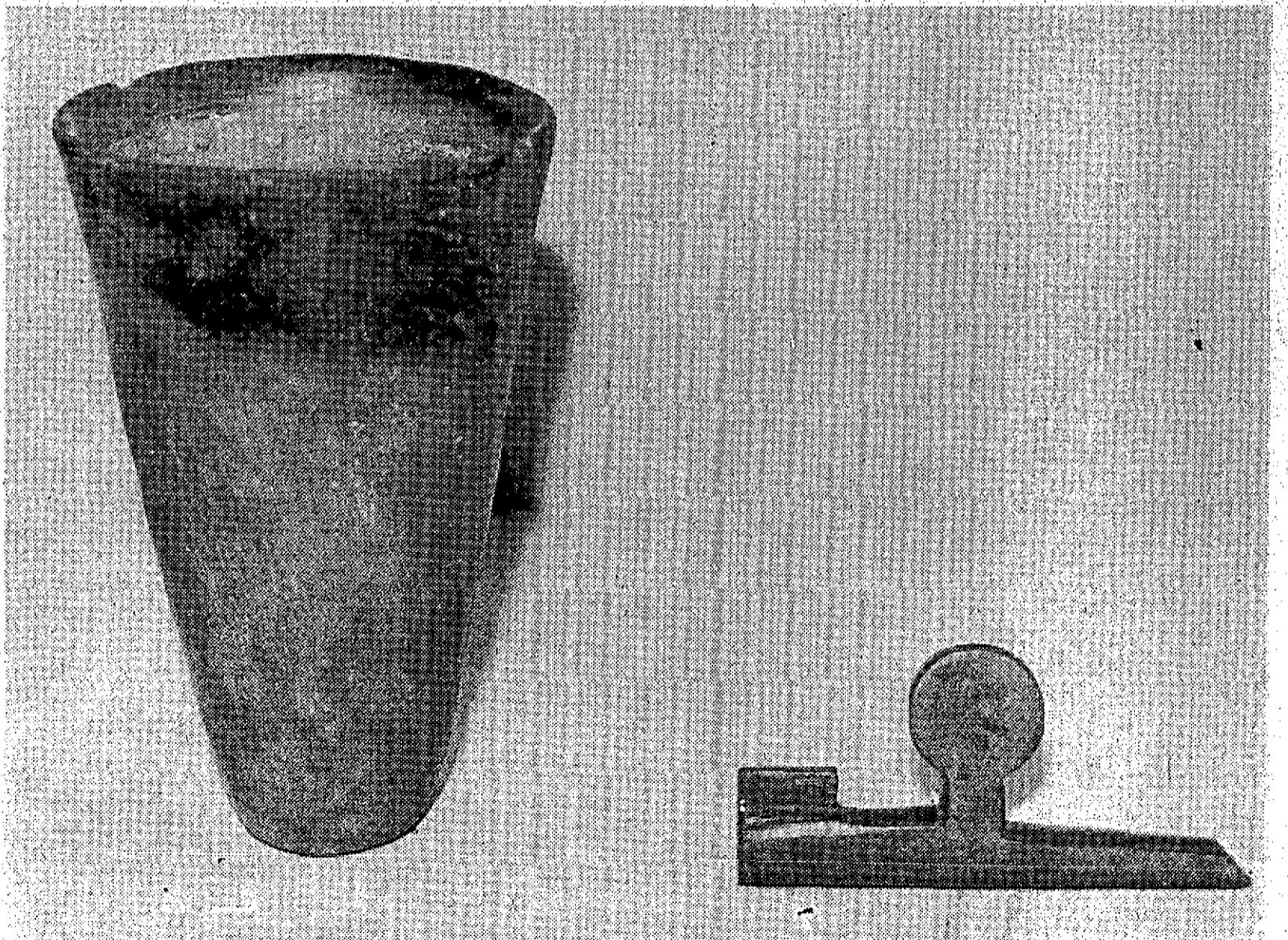
tribes. They lived in one place and then another, looking for good land for their villages. Wherever they stayed for some time they built mounds. We find these mounds along our rivers. Explorers, digging into the mounds, have found weapons and pottery the Mound Builders made and used. From the markings on these things it seemed that they belonged to a very early race of people.

Some of the mounds are round-topped. They were probably built as a place for people and cattle in time of high water. Some seem to have been burial mounds.

The flat-topped mounds were temples for worship. When you visit the Mobile Public Library museum you may see broken bits of pottery, dug up some years ago, near Mobile. Perhaps they were used by the Mound Builders.

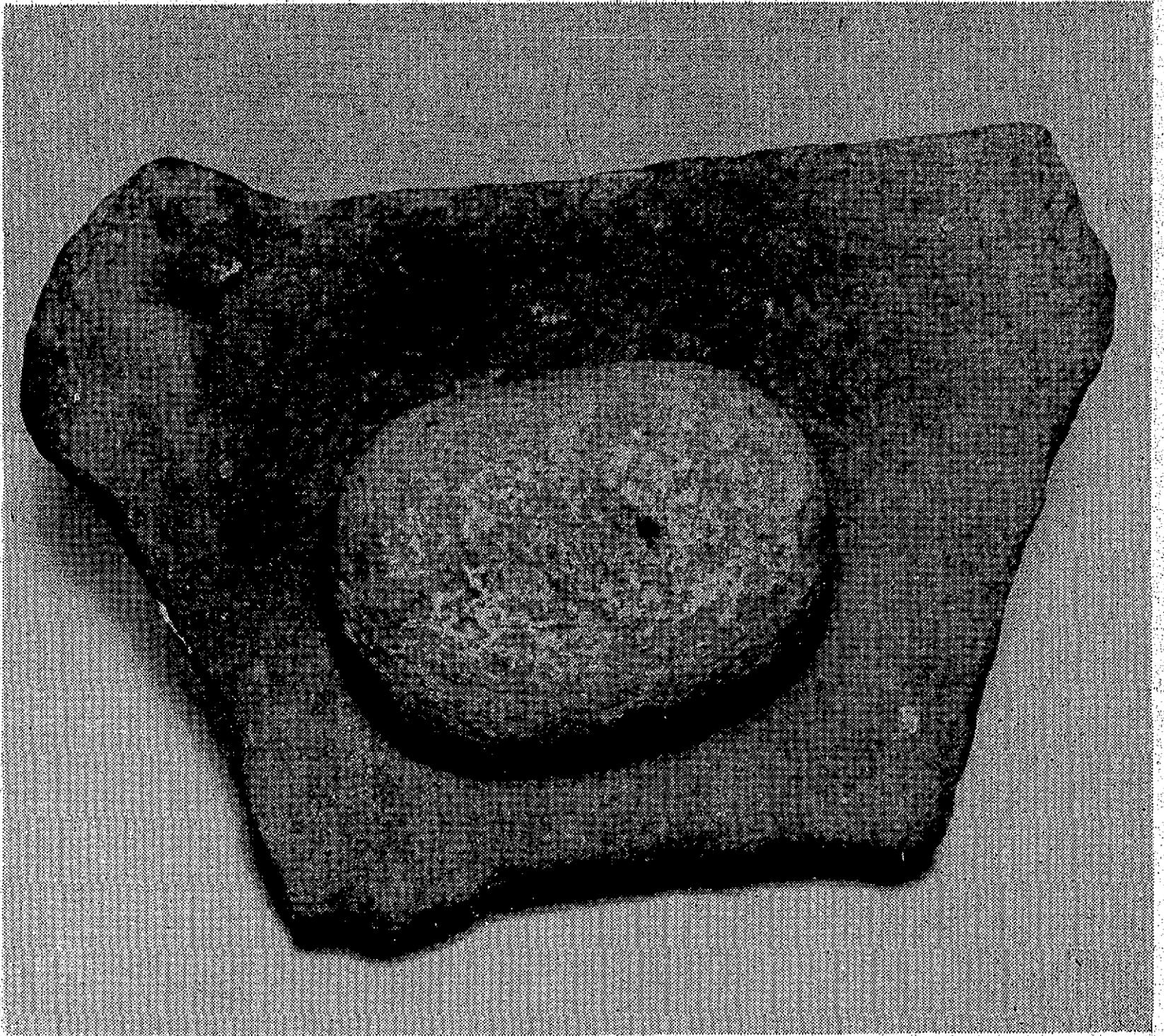
Other mounds were piled up near their camps or villages. These mounds contain broken clay pots, arrow heads, and shells that were thrown away in piles. They are called kitchen middens. In other words, they were the garbage dumps of the tribe.

Then there are oblong mounds like graves, only larger. Some of these you will find at Twenty-Seven Mile



This red clay vase from an Alabama coastal mound is a fine example of Indian pottery. The Indian pipe is the kind used as a "peace pipe."

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library



This mortar and pestle, found in a coastal mound, was used by the Indians to grind their corn into meal.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library

Bluff, on a river bank, 27 miles up the Mobile River. There are several small mounds in a field on the Bru Place, near Twenty-one Mill Bluff. One has been partly washed away by the river. There is another mound like this on the Malone Place at Georgetown.

A large flat-top mound, about 200 feet long and 30 feet high, is located on the Tensas River just below Mount Vernon. This mound is said to be very, very old. The United States Government thinks this mound is im-

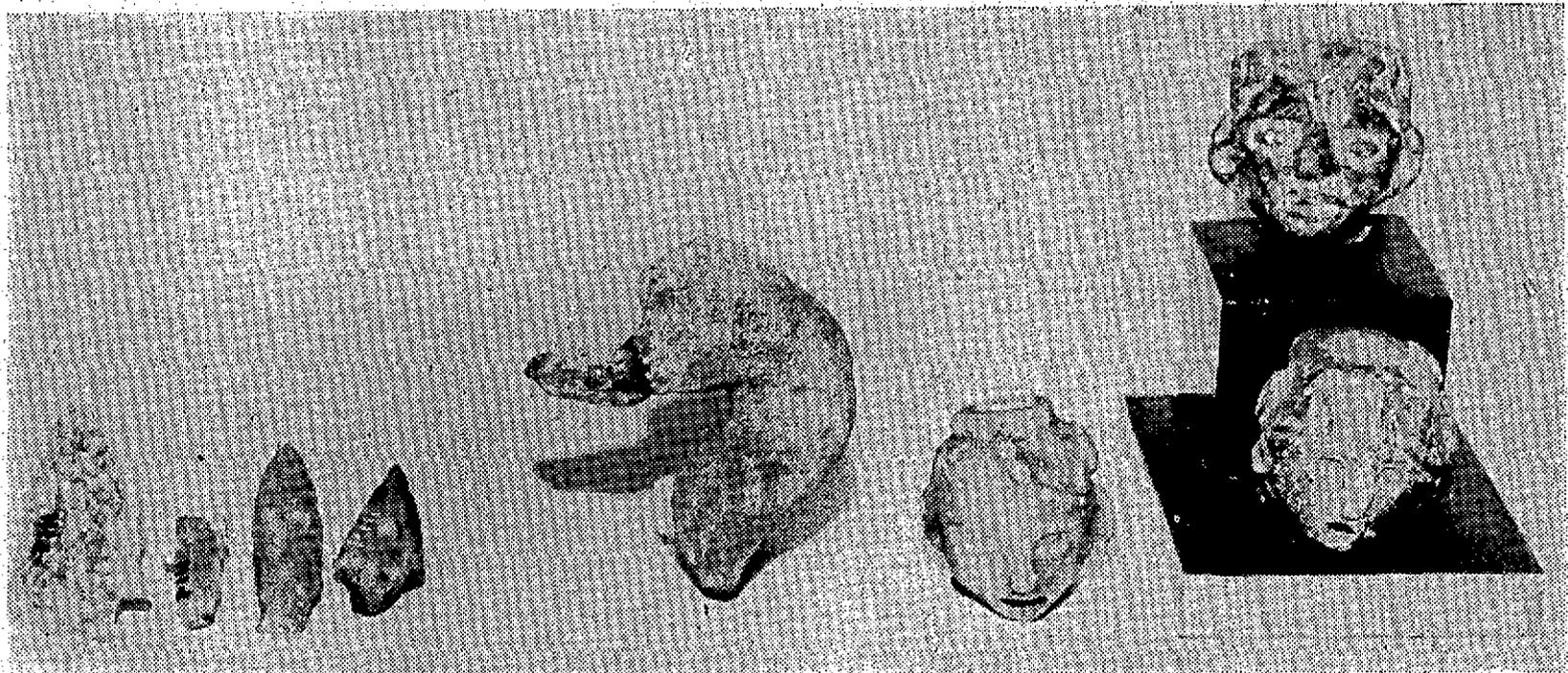
portant. A fence has been built around the mound to protect it.

You will find some shell mounds at Coden on the Gulf Coast of Mobile County. However, not all shell mounds belonged to the Mound Builders. Some mounds were built by Indians thousands of years later. Some may



From early mound of Alabama Coast. Modeled face and figure show Aztec influence.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library



Arrow heads, knife, and duck head from Dauphin Island mounds. The heads, modeled in clay, from Coden mounds, were loaned to the library by Dr. C. C. Cox.

Courtesy, Mobile Public Library

be just mounds of oyster shells piled up by oyster shuckers in recent years.

Dr. Walter B. Jones, the State Geologist, has made a list of all the Mound Builders' mounds in Alabama. By digging into a mound, a geologist is able to tell how old it is. He can say whether it was built by the earliest people or by later people who have lived here. A trip to the mounds in Mobile County is a real adventure for any boy or girl who likes history.

Now let's skip from the Mound Builders up to 1492, the year when Columbus discovered America. He was looking for India, but he discovered a New World instead. Other explorers followed him. Some of them sailed into Mobile Bay. They found here a race of red men. They called them Indians.

These red-skinned people were quite different from the white men who saw them for the first time. They